

# BULLETIN

SUMMER 2006

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## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN - HENRY L. GREEN

### NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRES SMOKE ALARMS - SPREAD THE WORD

Legislation enacted into law in the spring of 2004 requires the installation of smoke alarms in residential buildings and structures constructed before November 6, 1974, and required amendments to the existing Michigan Building and Residential Codes and the Michigan Rehabilitation Code for existing buildings. Under this legislation, building owners have one year from the effective date of March 14, 2006 to have smoke alarms installed in buildings constructed prior to November 6, 1974. Why November 6, 1974? That was the date of adoption of the first state construction code in Michigan.

Section 907.2.10.1.2 of the Michigan Building Code, and Section R313.1 of the Michigan Residential Code, dictate where smoke alarms are required in the various occupancies.

The intent of this legislation is not to require/allow inspectors to review every structure in their jurisdiction and require that the owner install smoke alarms. The intent is that after March 14, 2007, when an inspector is conducting an annual inspection of rental property, or an inspection related to work requiring a permit, in a building which was constructed prior to November 6, 1974, the inspector is required to cite a violation for lack of a smoke alarm(s). All citations related to this legislation must come from an inspector registered under 1986 PA 54.

Smoke alarms are the residential fire safety success story of the past quarter century. Smoke alarm technology has been around since the 1960s. But the single-station, battery-powered smoke alarm we know today became available to consumers in the 1970s, and since then, the home fire death rate has been reduced by half.

#### **Here are some facts and figures that will help you in your public education efforts within your community:**

- A 2004 U.S. telephone survey found that 96% of the households surveyed had at least one smoke alarm.
- Roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires in the small percentage of homes with no smoke alarms.
- Homes with smoke alarms (whether or not they are operational) typically have a death rate that is 40-50% less than the rate for homes without alarms.
- In one-quarter of the reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work. Households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms.
- Why do smoke alarms fail? Most often because of missing, disconnected or dead batteries.

Source: NFPA's "U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Detection/Alarm Equipment."

#### **A life-saving test: check your smoke alarms regularly**

- Test your smoke alarms once a month, following the manufacturer's instructions.
- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarm once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps" a warning that the battery is low. Hint: schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clocks from daylight savings time to standard time in the fall.
- Never "borrow" a battery from a smoke alarm. Smoke alarms can't warn you of fire if their batteries are missing or have been disconnected.
- Don't disable smoke alarms even temporarily. If your smoke alarm is sounding "nuisance alarms," try relocating it farther from kitchens or bathrooms, where cooking fumes and steam can cause the alarm to sound.
- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarms, following the manufacturer's instructions, can keep them working properly.
- Smoke alarms don't last forever. Replace yours once every 10 years. If you can't remember how old the alarm is, then it's probably time for a new one.
- Consider installing smoke alarms with "long-life" (10-year) batteries.

# ON-LINE PERMITS

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By Dave Viges, Director  
Office of Management Services

An issue has arisen regarding applications for permits on-line. Many permits are being applied for using the name of an individual other than the license holder or contractor of record. This error is occurring at the time of the initial registration for on-line permits and is then repeated with each successive permit.

The **ONLY** name that should appear on the **Mechanical Permit** application is the name of the Mechanical Contractor License holder. A homeowner may apply for an on-line permit for work performed in his/her own home in which he/she is living or about to occupy.

The **ONLY** name that should appear on the **Plumbing Permit** application is that of the Contractor or Master Plumber assigned to a company to obtain an on-line permit. A homeowner may apply for an on-line permit for work performed in his/her own home in which he/she is living or about to occupy.

The **ONLY** name that should appear on an **Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign Permit** is the electrical/fire alarm/sign Contractor of Record or a homeowner for work performed in his/her own home in which he/she is living or about to occupy.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Management Services at (517) 241-9313.

# BOILER DIVISION

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## WHAT BOILER PIPING REQUIRES A BOILER LICENSEE?

By Robert J. Aben, Chief  
Boiler Division

To understand the question we need to know how boiler systems are categorized under the boiler law and rules.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code is adopted by reference in the following Michigan Boiler Rules; R 408.4025, R 408.4027, R 408.4031 and R 408.4032. This code groups the parts of a boiler system into three areas. 1. The boiler proper, which is out to the first connection off the boiler. 2. Boiler external piping, which is from the boiler to the first or second valve required by the code. 3. Non-boiler external piping, which is all piping beyond the first or second valve. (See ASME Code Sec. I Preamble for more detail.)

The piping systems discussed above are those associated with power boilers and high-pressure/high temperature hot water boilers. Power boilers are those designed to operate at a pressure above 15 psi for steam or 160 psi or 250° F for hot water. The installation, repair or replacement of boilers and external piping seldom create questions regarding licensing requirements. However, the third area, non-boiler external piping, continues to be disregarded, overlooked or misunderstood.

R 408.4032 of the Michigan Boiler Rules states that non-boiler external piping must be installed in accordance with ASME Code B31.1, and it identifies four piping

systems that must be installed to this code - 1. Blow-down piping beyond the second valve and out to the safe point of discharge; 2. Steam piping out to the load, (this includes high pressure/high temperature hot water); 3. Feed water piping from the pump to the boiler; and 4. Condensate piping operating over 15 psi.

R 408.4033 of the Michigan Boiler Rules identifies the permit requirements and states in Paragraph a. "A person shall not install, reinstall, alter, or repair a boiler without holding a proper license and first securing a permit..." and Paragraph b. "A person shall not install, repair, or replace welded pipe without holding a proper license and first securing a permit..." and Paragraph c. "A person shall not install, repair, or replace non-welded pipe without holding a proper license, a permit is not required."

A proper license is considered one of the boiler licenses that meets the classification requirements for the size of boiler being worked on or a "P" classification for high-pressure piping as defined previously.

Piping systems of low-pressure boilers and those high-pressure systems not discussed here fall under the jurisdiction of the state or local enforcing authority responsible to administer and enforce the Michigan Mechanical Code.

Questions may be directed to the Boiler Division at (517) 241-9334.

# BUILDING DIVISION

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## WEATHER-RESISTIVE SHEATHING PAPER

**Larry Lehman, Chief  
Building Division**

Weather-resistive sheathing papers or approved alternative materials are now required to be installed beneath exterior siding materials by both the 2003 Michigan Residential Code (MRC), section R703.2 and the 2003 Michigan Building Code (MBC), Section 1404.2. Both codes require that No. 15 or Type 1 felt complying with ASTM D 226 or other approved weather-resistive materials shall be applied over sheathing of all exterior walls. The only exception is for detached accessory structures.

Where other approved weather-resistive materials are used, they must be approved by the building official in accordance with section 104.11 of the MBC and section R104.11 of the Michigan Residential Code (MRC) as an approved alternative material. The information necessary for this type of approval is generally the National Evaluation Reports issued by the International Code Council's, Evaluation Services. The reports provide documentation that the product, when installed in accordance with the

manufacturer's installation instructions and the conditions of the report, will achieve the necessary weather-resistive barrier protection.

It is important to note the exterior weather-resistive barrier must cover the entire exterior envelope including gabled ends and must be incorporated with building flashings to provide complete secondary moisture protection for the exterior wall. It has been brought to the bureau's attention that some jurisdictions are not requiring the gables to be covered by a weather-resistive sheathing paper. The code requires all exterior walls of buildings and attached garages to be completely covered in a shingle fashion to ensure water or moisture, that may enter through the building exterior covering, is protected by a complete weather-resistive barrier. In some installations, like brick veneer, the weather-resistive sheathing paper is part of a system that, when properly constructed, provides a cavity for the drainage of moisture through weep holes installed above grade.

Questions should be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

# ELECTRICAL DIVISION

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## ASHRAE STANDARD 90.1-1999

**Virgil Monroe, Chief  
Electrical Division**

Chapter 9 of the ASHRAE standard gives the requirements for lighting controls in buildings larger than 5000 square feet. However, for existing buildings there seems to be some confusion as to when to apply the standard. The question is, "In the case of additions or alterations, does the requirements of standard take precedence?" The following discussion pertains to electrical only, although the standard covers other aspects of the building construction industry.

Section 4.1.2.1 covers additions to existing buildings. This section states that an addition to an existing building shall comply with the applicable requirements of the standard. However, the addition shall not increase the energy

consumption of the existing building plus the addition if the addition complies.

Section 4.1.2.2 covers alterations to existing buildings. This section states that portions of electrical power, lighting, and other systems and equipment that are being replaced shall comply with the requirements of the standard. See 4.1.2.2(b) of this section for restrictions.

So, in general, if an addition or alteration is made to a building, the electrical work involved in that addition or alteration must conform to the requirements of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-1999.

Questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.

# ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

## ELEVATOR E-MAIL ADDRESS

By Calvin W. Rogler, Chief  
Elevator Safety Division

The Elevator Safety Division now has a new e-mail address. The division will be sending letters to all licensed Elevator Journeypersons and Contractors notifying them of the new e-mail address. The address will be used to receive questions on licensing and code issues. The division will also be collecting e-mail addresses of those individuals or

company representatives that would prefer the division to send elevator information by e-mail. Information being sent will include code rule updates and a link to the bureau's newsletter.

The e-mail address for the Elevator Safety Division is: [elevsafety@michigan.gov](mailto:elevsafety@michigan.gov). The division looks forward to using this mail box to provide better service to its customers.

## ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION'S FORMS AND APPLICATIONS

The Elevator Safety Division has updated all its forms and applications. The changes made were required by the adoption of the last code edition. Most of the forms and applications are available on the bureau website; however, they may not be able to be submitted electronically. Accessed documents may be completed and printed from the website, then mailed to the division. This should substantially reduce the time required to submit forms or applications because

customers will not have to wait for the forms to be mailed. Instructions necessary to complete the forms or applications will be included on the website with the specific form or application.

If you have any questions or need assistance to access the website or the forms, please call the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

Application for Elevator Contractor License Examination		Print	Clear	183												
Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety Elevator Safety Division P.O. Box 30255 Lansing, MI 48909 517-241-9337		(Continue to back page and complete before printing this document)														
This form can be completed by tabbing to each field and typing in the required information.		OFFICE USE ONLY														
EXAMINATION FEE: \$45.00		<table border="1"><tr><td>DIVISION ACTION</td><td>DATE</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SUBMITTED TO BOARD</td><td>INITIALS</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>BOARD ACTION</td><td>DATE</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED</td><td></td></tr></table>			DIVISION ACTION	DATE	<input type="checkbox"/> SUBMITTED TO BOARD	INITIALS	<input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED		BOARD ACTION	DATE	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED		<input type="checkbox"/> REJECTED	
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Authority: 1997 PA 327 Completion: Mandatory As Required By Section 12 Penalty: Examination Will Not Be Given	The Department of Labor & Economic Growth will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability or political beliefs. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you may make your needs known to this agency.															
IMPORTANT - READ CAREFULLY																
• This application must be on file in the office of the Elevator Safety Division, Department of Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Construction Codes & Fire Safety, P.O. Box 30255, Lansing, Michigan, 48909, on or before the twentieth day preceeding the date of examination.																
• The applicant shall be in a position to submit sufficient information relative to his experience, integrity, and responsibility																
• Applicant must have at least 5 years of experience as an elevator constructor or journeyperson in the type of elevator work for which they desire the license.																
• Provide 2 written references.																

## BCC CONTACT INFORMATION

### Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)  
P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)  
P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation)  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

### Telephone Numbers:

Administration (517) 241-9302  
Office of Administrative Services (517) 335-2972  
Office of Management Services (517) 241-9313  
Boiler Division (517) 241-9334  
Building Division (517) 241-9317  
Electrical Division (517) 241-9320  
Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337  
Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325  
Office of Local Government & Consumer Services (517) 241-9347  
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (517) 241-6321  
Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328  
Plumbing Division (517) 241-9330



# OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION

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## LOCAL PLANNING COMMISSION'S ROLE IN THE SUBDIVISION PLAT APPROVAL PROCESS

By Maynard Dyer, Director

Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation

There are currently three existing enabling statutes that authorize creation of planning commissions, the Municipal Planning Act (1931 PA 285), The Township Planning Act (1959 PA 168) and the County Planning Act (1945 PA 282). Additionally, there is a Joint Municipal Planning Act (2003 PA 226). Combining these acts into a single act is proposed in Senate Bill 683. Planning commissions are authorized to review proposed new subdivisions for conformance with the master plan, master street plan and zoning requirements when master plans and/or zoning have been adopted. The planning commission approves or recommends approval to the municipality depending on the enabling act and/or the local ordinance that authorized the activities of the planning commission.

An approval or recommendation for approval given from a planning commission is necessary under the planning commission's enabling act and/or the adopted ordinances of the municipality. However, it is not an approval under the provisions of the Land Division Act. The approvals of the municipality for the actual subdivision plats are pursuant to Sections 112, 120 and 142(g) of the Land Division Act (LDA) (1967 PA 288). These approvals are required to be granted by the governing body of the municipality along with the other approvals specified in the LDA, before the final plat is

entitled to be recorded, the final step in the new subdivision process.

The planning commission's work corresponds with the initial approval of the municipality under Section 112 of the LDA where the tentative approval of the preliminary plat is requested by the land owner. This step reviews the proposed subdivision for approval of lot sizes, lot orientation and street layout. This is a review of the overall subdivision design to meet zoning, master plan and master street plan requirements. The planning commission's review and action is provided 60 days to complete including a public hearing if required. This 60 day period needs to be completed within the 90 day period provided in Section 112(2) so the governing body of the municipality can complete its work within the prescribed timeframe.

The expertise of the planning commission may be accessed for review and recommendation to the governing body for the other two approvals necessary under section 120 and 142, if desired by the municipality and adopted by ordinance. Again, the work of the planning commission needs to be completed in time for the governing body of the municipality to complete its work within the time allotted in the LDA for their action to approve or deny approval of the new plat.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Land Survey and Remonumentation at (517) 241-6321.

## BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Barrier Free Design Board	Sept 15, Nov 17	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Boiler Rules	Sept 12	9:30 am	Okemos – Suite 116
	Dec 12	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	Sept 13, Nov 1	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Oct 6, Dec 1	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Sept 25, Nov 2	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	Oct 11, Dec 13	10 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	Sept 27, Nov 29	9 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Sept 5, Oct 24, Dec 12	10 am	Okemos – Conf Room 1

# OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMER SERVICES

## BUREAU TRAINING PROGRAMS FALL 2006

By Scott Fisher, Director

### Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

In an effort to provide training to a broader range of registered inspectors, the Bureau of Construction Codes is pleased to announce that its inspector training programs for the fall of 2006 will again be held at the M-Tech Center in Lansing. This state-of-the-art training facility hosted training programs for all of the bureau's divisions last year. The M-Tech Center is Lansing Community College's West Campus located at 5708 Cornerstone Drive in Delta Township.

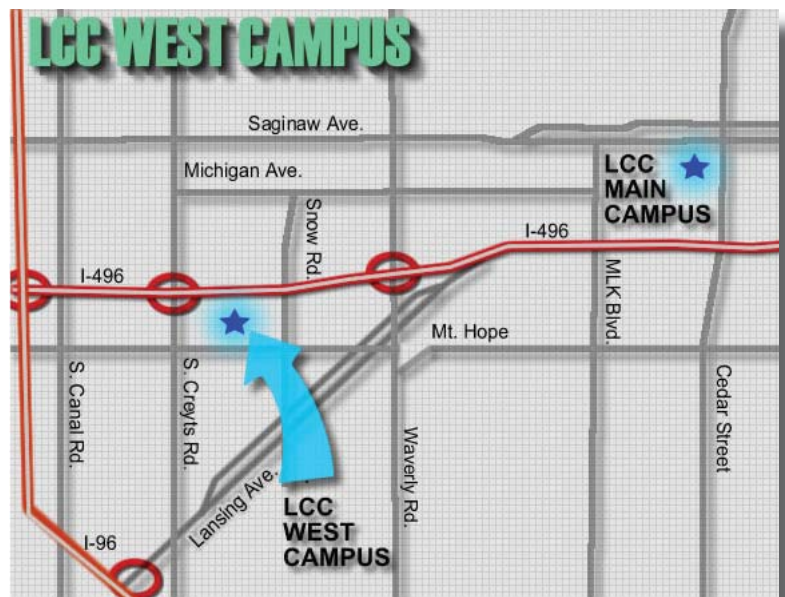
The programs, conducted by the bureau's Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing divisions, will be in October of this year and kick-off the training for the 2006-2009 registration cycle.

The divisions are designing their programs to be two, one-day programs that will be held back to back in the same week. This concept will allow a participant the flexibility of attending either day of training, or both. Each day is being planned for seven hours of training and will include an on site lunch. The cost of the training will be approximately \$60 per participant per day.

Fall 2006 training dates are as follows:

Building	October 3, 4
Electrical	October 10, 11
Plumbing	October 17, 18
Mechanical	October 24, 25

There are still a few openings in each of the program areas. Don't wait! Make reservations today by contacting the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.



## MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMISSION

Kevin DeGroat

### Office of Local Government and Consumer Services

The Manufactured Housing Commission resolved on June 14, 2006, to reconsider suggested changes to the draft model manufactured housing ordinance at its upcoming August 16 meeting. The commission's ordinance review and community subcommittees and bureau staff re-edited the draft upon commission request. Commissioners agreed that its final version of the ordinance, intended to offer interested municipalities adoptable state-compliant standards for regulating manufactured housing communities, would be proposed for local, public and industry comment.

The purpose of the model is to give local governments that want a "ready-made," approvable manufactured housing ordinance a simpler voluntary option for obtaining state ratification of their ordinances without following the longer regular process of formal ordinance review. Municipalities

that submitted this model would no longer have to funnel manufactured housing community ordinances through the staff, ordinance review committee, and commission "pipeline" now required to review ordinances containing higher standards than the Mobile Home Commission Act and related codes. This alternative could benefit municipalities, which may not have the staff, time, or resources to pursue the formal review process. However, as in the past, localities could continue to submit their own proposed higher ordinance standards and written justification to the commission for approval under Section 7(1) of the act.

After reviewing staff's responses to the model, the commission plans to evaluate and develop a final sample ordinance for distribution and posting on the bureau's website.

Questions may be directed to the Office of Local Government and Consumer Services at (517) 241-9347.

# MECHANICAL DIVISION

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## OUTDOOR SOLID FUEL FIRED HOT WATER FURNACES

**By Dave Adams, Assistant Chief  
Mechanical Division**

To install an outdoor solid fuel fired hot water furnace, a mechanical permit and inspection are required.

On a state mechanical permit application, the fee chart should indicate an application fee, solid fuel equipment and piping. If more than one inspection is necessary, please mark additional inspections on the application.

Inspectors will check that the equipment is tested and listed for its use and whether it is installed per the code and installation instructions. The piping and heat exchanger must also be tested and listed for its use and installed per code and installation instructions.

Please contact the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325, if you have any questions.



# PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

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## ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS FOR CHILDREN

**By Irvin J. Poke, Chief  
Plan Review Division**

The 2006 International Building Code references the ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003 standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities. This updated standard contains requirements to provide accessibility for children. The exceptions in the Michigan Building Code for child fixtures will go away when the 2006 Michigan Building Code is adopted.

It should be noted that these provisions are mainstreamed by building feature or amenity, and there is not a separate chapter for children's facilities. These requirements apply to features and elements that are primarily for use by children from ages 6 through 12 years. These new provisions shall greatly improve accessibility in day care centers and elementary schools for the primary user.

Questions may be directed to the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9334.



# PLUMBING DIVISION

## LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT-PLUMBING

### INSPECTOR CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

By Robert Konyndyk, Chief  
Plumbing Division

The purpose of this article is to explain the statutory requirement related to local unit of government inspection agencies employing registered plumbing inspectors, licensed as master or journey plumbers having a conflict of interest.

The Michigan Plumbing Law was revised with the enactment of Act 2002, PA 733. The revisions clarify and expand the provisions of the previous state plumbing law prohibiting all persons licensed by the act from performing duties as an inspector while engaged in the plumbing business. Section 39 of the act states:

*Sec. 39. An individual licensed under this act employed or acting as a plumbing inspector shall not engage in, or be directly or indirectly connected with, the plumbing business including, but not limited to, the furnishing of labor, materials, or appliances for the construction, alteration, or maintenance of a building or the preparation of plans or specifications for the construction, alteration, or maintenance of a building and shall not engage in any work that conflicts with his or her official duties.*

A plumbing inspector shall not be engaged in the plumbing business, such as having proprietary interest, a designer, an installer of new systems or maintenance, and any action which conflicts with their duties. Persons found to be in violation of this provision of the State Plumbing Act will be cited and subject to administrative action as provided by Section 47, Sanctions.

Enforcing agencies employing a plumbing inspector shall assure conformance with the above provision.

Questions may be directed to the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

## LICENSE EXAMINATION DATES

<u>Examination</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Boiler Installer and Repairer	Sept 6, 7	Okemos	Aug 4
	Dec 6, 7	Okemos	Nov 3
Boiler National Board	Sept 6, 7	Okemos	Aug 4
	Dec 6, 7	Okemos	Nov 3
Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign Contractor	Sept 21	Escanaba	Aug 18
	Oct 27	Okemos	Sept 29
	Nov 20	Okemos	Oct 20
Electrician - Journeyperson	Sept 20	Escanaba	Aug 23
	Oct 23, 24, 25	Okemos	Sept 25
	Dec 11, 12, 13	Okemos	Nov 8
Electrician - Master	Sept 21	Escanaba	Aug 24
	Oct 26	Okemos	Sept 28
	Dec 14	Okemos	Nov 14
Elevator - Contractor/Cert. of Comp.	Nov 2	Okemos	Oct 12
Elevator Journeyperson	Sept 19	Okemos	Aug 29
	Nov 21	Okemos	Oct 31
Mechanical Contractor	Sept 19	Lansing	Aug 23
	Dec 12	Lansing	Nov 9
Plumbers - Contractor	Sept 12	East Lansing	
	Dec 6	East Lansing	
Plumbers - Master and Journey	Sept 6	East Lansing	
	Dec 13	East Lansing	

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the BCC web site for updates.

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**Editor in Chief**  
Henry L. Green

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Beth Hunter Aben

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